

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for an automotive vehicle comprising:
a seatbelt having a buckled state and an unbuckled state; [[and]]
a self-powered wireless switch assembly coupled to the seatbelt, the self-powered wireless switch assembly comprising an energy harvesting element generating electrical power, a capacitor storing power received from the energy harvesting element, and a wireless transmitter transmitting a wireless status signal corresponding to the buckled state and the unbuckled state;
a receiver receiving a wireless signal; and
an electrical request signal generated by the receiver requesting the wireless status signal.
2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the energy harvesting element comprises a piezoelectric material.
3. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the energy harvesting element comprises an antenna capturing stray radiant radio frequency energy.
4. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the signal comprises a seatbelt location identifier.
5. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the self-powered wireless switch assembly is coupled to a buckle side of said seatbelt.
6. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein the self-powered wireless switch assembly is coupled to a tongue side of said seatbelt buckle.
7. (Canceled)

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8. (Currently Amended) An automotive vehicle comprising:
a seat;
a seatbelt mounted adjacent to said seat;
a device comprising said seatbelt having a buckled state and an unbuckled state, a self-powered wireless switch assembly coupled to the seatbelt, the self-powered wireless switch assembly comprising an energy harvesting element generating electrical power, a capacitor storing power received from the energy harvesting element, and a wireless transmitter transmitting a wireless status signal corresponding to the buckled state and the unbuckled state;
a receiver receiving the wireless status signal and generating an electrical status signal corresponding to the wireless status signal; [[and]]
an indicator coupled to the receiver to display the electrical status signal; and
a request signal generated by the receiver wherein the wireless status signal is transmitted in response to receiving the request signal.

9. (Original) The automotive vehicle of claim 8 wherein the energy harvesting element includes a piezoelectric device.

10. (Original) The automotive vehicle of claim 8 wherein the seat is removable.

11. (Original) The automotive vehicle of claim 8 wherein the seat is non-removable.

12. (Original) The automotive vehicle of claim 8 wherein the seat is foldable.

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13. (Original) The automotive vehicle of claim 8 further comprising a plurality of receivers.

14. (Original) The automotive vehicle of claim 8 wherein the receiver communicates wirelessly with the indicator.

15. (Original) The automotive vehicle of claim 8 further comprising a control module for conditioning the electrical status signal received from the receiver and the conditioned electrical status signal to the indicator.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of using a device in an automotive vehicle comprising:

coupling a seatbelt comprising a tongue side to a buckle side;
generating power from an energy harvesting element in response to coupling;
storing the power in a capacitor;
generating a seatbelt status in response to the coupling;
powering a transmitter with the stored power;
transmitting a wireless signal comprising the seatbelt status;
receiving the wireless signal in a receiver; [[and]]
generating an alert message indicative of the seatbelt status; and
receiving a request signal, wherein transmitting the wireless signal in response to
receiving the request signal.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein transmitting the wireless signal comprises a seatbelt identification and a seatbelt status.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the energy harvesting element is a piezoelectric material.

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19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein transmitting the wireless signal comprises a second seatbelt identification and a second seatbelt status.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein transmitting the wireless signal comprises a plurality of seatbelt identifications and a plurality of seatbelt statuses.

21. (Currently Amended) A device for an automotive vehicle comprising:
a seatbelt having a buckled state and an unbuckled state;
a self-powered wireless switch assembly coupled to the seatbelt, the self-powered wireless switch assembly comprising an energy harvesting element generating electrical power, a capacitor storing power received from the energy harvesting element, and a transmitter transmitting a electrical status signal corresponding to the buckled state and the unbuckled state; [[and]]

an indicator coupled to the self-powered wireless switch assembly, the indicator receiving the electrical status signal and generating an indication corresponding to the electrical status signal; and

a request signal generated by the receiver wherein the wireless status signal is transmitted in response to receiving the request signal.

22. (Original) The device of claim 21 wherein the self-powered wireless switch assembly further comprises a wireless transmitter transmitting a wireless status signal corresponding to the buckled state and the unbuckled state.

23. (Canceled)

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24. (Currently Amended) A device for an automotive vehicle comprising: a seatbelt having a buckled state and an unbuckled state; and a self-powered wireless switch assembly coupled to the seatbelt, the self-powered wireless switch assembly comprising an energy harvesting element generating electrical power, a receiver receiving a request signal and generates an electrical request signal corresponding to the request signal, and a wireless transmitter transmitting a wireless status signal corresponding to the buckled state and the unbuckled state in response to receiving the request signal.

25. (New) The device of claim 24 wherein the energy harvesting element comprises a piezoelectric material.

26. (New) The device of claim 24 wherein wireless status signal comprises a seatbelt identification and a seatbelt status.